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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Russian President Vladimir Putin
(U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko
Notetaker: Rob Williams, Ed Padinske, Tina
Yarmchuk, Bob Riley and Tom Robertson

DATE, TIME September 10, 2001, 7:40 - 7:51 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Good morning, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: I am very glad to hear from you. (U)

The President: Oh yes, good, thank you. Listen, I wanted to call and touch base with you on a couple of matters. I'm looking forward to a good discussion in Shanghai. And, Vladimir, I hope the Shanghai meeting will be one in which we can have some good detailed discussions about lots of issues, all aiming at some point in time, in Washington or Crawford, about getting a new strategic relationship and framework, not only on defense but also on economic, cultural, and other matters. And finally, I know there's been lots of voices coming from Washington, lots of officials in my Administration. So I'm going to write a letter that's coming to you just as fast as I can draft and send it that will begin to outline in detail and in specifics where I think we can go to make agreement on a wide variety of issues. One thing that I won't be able to put in the letter, but we'll talk about it face to face, is the number of offensive nuclear weapons we can reduce in our arsenal. I told you I would get you a level, and I hope to get you the total number sooner rather than later. In summary, and I know I'm talking too much, I heard of your discussion with Condi on some special matters, and I hope, my friend, that we can get down to

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good work. I stand by my hope that we can forge a new relationship that can lead the rest of the world, and I look forward to seeing you. ~~(S)~~

President Putin: Excellent. Well, George, first and foremost, I would like to congratulate you on the end of your holiday and on coming back to the office. Our national television on various channels was showing several times the way you were having rest and relaxation, and I hope it was an excellent holiday. (U)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Putin: At least you looked happy. On the whole, I would like to say this, we are satisfied with the way the relationship is developing. We think things are good on the economic front, and as agreed in October we are looking forward to welcoming the delegation of business leaders led by Secretary of Commerce Evans as agreed between you and me. As you are aware, I recently have received Sharon in Moscow. ~~(S)~~

The President: Yes. ~~(S)~~

President Putin: And we have some things to discuss on that subject also. There is also one other issue I would like to touch base on with you, and I would like you to keep it to you, and the media should not know. It's not a pleasant issue. Yesterday during a terrorist act, Masood, the head of the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, was murdered. The people from the Northern Alliance are still keeping it close to their chest, and they are going to make it public in a day or two. It may complicate the situation in Afghanistan a lot. We have a working group meeting on October 30 to November 1. So I would like to ask you therefore if we could move up this meeting. And I would like you to talk to your people there in your office, because I believe we must have an identical response to this terrorist act so that the Taliban has no hope of breaking out of isolation as a result. ~~(S)~~

The President: I'll have Condi call Rushaylo on that as soon as possible. ~~(S)~~

President Putin: Thank you, that would be excellent. Consultations on issues of strategic capabilities are progressing well. Frankly speaking, there's no discernible movement forward, however, consultations are going fine and I believe we could end up with some results during the Shanghai

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(meeting. Just like you have said, I'm looking forward to seeing you there because there are some things I'd like to say eye to eye, and I'd like to thank you for calling me now. ~~(S)~~

The President: Good, thanks, Vladimir. And if there's anything on your mind before our meeting, just give me a call. I didn't want the relationship to drift. That's why I gave you a call. I think about it a lot. You're a practical man and so am I. If you have thoughts, I'd like to hear them. In the meantime, I hope you're well. Thanks for your comments on the ranch. I'm just cleaning it up so when you come I'll be ready to host you. ~~(S)~~

President Putin: Thank you so much. I'm looking forward to our visit. It is always my pleasure to discuss things with you on the phone and eye to eye, and therefore I believe that I am at your disposal, and I'll take the liberty that if I have things to say, I'll give you a call. ~~(S)~~

The President: Thank you, sir. (U)

President Putin: Thank you. Good-bye. (U)

(-- End of Conversation --

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